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(The following article by the late Alison Arnold is reproduced from the August 1980 issue of the Clipper)

Alison Arnold Writes...

"I live in Tinkertown," I heard someone say recently. "Oh, I thought you lived in Duxbury," was the response.

Duxbury is not just a little village. It spreads over many miles and has 10 distinct sections. You may live in Tinkertown, Tarkiln or Ashdod and you still live in Duxbury.

Tarkiln is named for the pits for making tar that were once located there. The area was also called Chandlerville because almost every house was owned by a Chandler. The Tree of Knowledge was located there. The Duxbury stagecoach that carried passengers from Boston to Plymouth deposited mail there to be picked up by a local conveyance. The tree has long since disappeared, but a sign marks the spot.

Ashdod, according to the Bible, was one of the 5 cities of the Philistines to which they took the Ark of the Covenant when they overcame the Israelites. But just why this part of Duxbury is so named has never been proved. There were a grist mill, a sawmill and a blacksmith shop there and timber was hauled to the shipyards by ox teams.

Millbrook is the section leading to Marshfield. The brook, originally called Stoncy Brook, provided water power for Duxbury's first mill and for a textile factory that furnished cloth for sails for Ezra Weston's ships. Ford's store was in Millbrook.

Island Creek is a settlement near Kingston along a creek and an island at its mouth. The pond from which the creek flowed was Island Creek Pond. It later became Tack Factory Pond and Ice House Pond.

The Nook was the first part of Duxbury to be identified by a name. Since it is the nearest point to Plymouth, the Standishes and Brewsters settled there. In the 1800s Jacob Seaver built a fertilizer plant on the west side of The Nook and made fertilizer from the fish called the porgy. So the place was known as the porgy or "pogie" factory. It prospered until Standish Shore residents complained about the odor.

North Duxbury extends to the Marshfield line and West Duxbury, to Pembroke. Through the 17th and 18th Centuries West Duxbury grew with a furniture shop and grocery store as well as a blacksmith shop and a public hall.

Duxbury Village is the part of town between Hall's Corner and Powder Point and some of the most beautiful old houses line Washington Street.

Powder Point, where Ezra Weston lived and had his boatyard, was also the home of the Soules and the Petersons. There are many stories as to how it acquired its name. Some say that the Indians planted gunpowder there. Others say that the town's gun powder was stored there. Still others tell you that a Marshfield man said puffs of smoke from the guns of hunters and called the land Powder Point. It was originally called Poulder Point, presumably from a place in England, so take your choice.

You can find out much more about these sections of Duxbury by reading Dorothy Wentworth's fascinating book, *Settlement and Growth of Duxbury, 1628-1870*.